



# English Language Arts Newsletter

## Events/Professional Learning

### *National:*

[National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention](#)

### *Local:*

[The Stern Center's Course Offerings](#)

[VRI Events](#)

[VRI Course Offerings](#)

[The Vermont Professional Learning Network's Events and Course Offerings](#)

## Connecting Research and Practice

*Issue:* [Text Complexity and Instructional Reading Levels](#)

*Article:* [Should We Tailor Difficulty of a School Text to a Child's Comfort Level or Make Them Sweat?](#)

*Blog Post:* [Tim Shanahan clarifies the need for balance in complexity of texts.](#)

*Web Page:* This CCSSO Web page is devoted to connecting the research and practices related to incorporating complex text in a balanced literacy classroom  
[Navigating Text Complexity: Connecting Research to Practice](#)

## Resources for Connecting Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

### *Quality Performance Assessments:*

The Center for Collaborative Education's Quality Performance Assessment Initiative (QPA) emphasizes that performance assessment that is linked to rigorous curriculum and instruction helps drive more comprehensive learning and enables the educator to measure achievement as required by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and in preparation for 21<sup>st</sup> century life. Explore their current resource offerings here: [Products, Tools and Protocols for Curriculum Embedded Performance Assessments:](#)

### *Informational Text:*

[Newsela](#) offers a variety of content area informational text, leveled on the Lexile scale of measurement.

[PBS Newshour Extra](#) offers news articles for students in grades 7-12, as well as teacher lesson suggestions.

*Additional resources for instruction and professional learning can be found on our [ELA Resources](#) page and on our [Overview](#) page.*